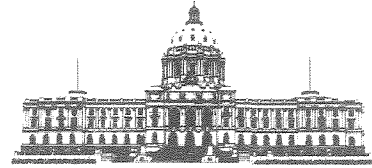


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## Senate

State of Minnesota

August 18, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

***WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations***

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I'm writing today to ask that you consider publicly supporting the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile that is currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission. It's rare that the joining of two major corporations would have such positive effects on underserved communities and working families, but this is such an instance.

If this merger goes through, AT&T has promised it will be able to bring high-speed wireless broadband access to over 97 percent of Americans. This technology is becoming increasingly vital to the health care and educational systems in our country. Telemedicine programs enable patients and doctors in even the poorest communities to have access to new and innovative treatments. And we've known for years that improving low-income students' access to the Internet opens doors to new ideas and opportunities.

This merger would also be good for the employees of these two companies. T-Mobile's workforce is currently un-unionized - for years the company's German parent prevented T-Mobile workers from organizing. AT&T, however is home to the largest unionized workforce in the U.S. wireless industry. As soon as this merger is approved, T-Mobile workers would have access to this union, which would strengthen it for all employees. As you know, the ability to organize leads to better wages, improved health care benefits, and enhanced job security.

Few public policies - not to mention, again, few corporate reorganizations - have the ability to improve health care and education outcomes, and workers' rights. This matter does, which is why I urge you to weigh in with the FCC in support of this merger.

Sincerely,

Ann Rest  
Minnesota State Senator

Representing the communities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth and Robbinsdale

Chair, Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

Member: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board; Legislative Audit Commission

**COMMITTEES:** Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee; Taxes Committee;  
Transportation Committee; Rules Committee Subcommittee on Redistricting



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